

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4416

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, SW

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST MEETING ON PORTUGAL

REF: (A) STATE 210313 (EXDIS)

(B) STOCKHOLM 4348

(C) STOCKHOLM 3962

(D) STOCKHOLM 3804

1. EVER SINCE THE AUGUST 2 MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS IN STOCKHOLM, PRIME MINISTER PALME HAS SUPPORTED CONSISTENTLY AID TO PORTUGAL WITHOUT CONDITIONS (REFS C AND D). PALME AND THE GOS BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A "PRAGMATIC" APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL, AND THAT ANY EFFORT TO SET CONDITIONS FOR AID FOR PORTUGAL WOULD BE RESENTED IN THAT COUNTRY AS INTERFERENCE IN LISBON'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. AT SAME TIME, GOS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ATTITUDE OF SWEDISH BOURGEOIS OPPOSITION PARTIES, FOR IT NEEDS PARLIMENTARY SUPPORT FOR ITS PLANNED \$2.5 MILLION TECHNICAL AID PROGRAM TO PORTUGAL. THE LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, GOSTA BOHMAN, HAS URGED THAT THE GOS SHOULD TAKE A "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE QUESTION OF AID UNTIL THE PICTURE BECOMES CLEARER IN PORTUGAL. HIS VIEWS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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SHARED BY AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS OF THE OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES.

3. GOS MFA OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT WHILE GOS BACKS

POLICY OF "NO CONDITIONS" ON ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP SWEDES HAVE POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES
OF GETTING AID PROGRAM THROUGH SWEDISH PARLIAMENT WITHOUT
SOME VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IN
PORTUGAL. THUS, PUBLIC STANCE OF UNCONDITIONAL AID TO
GOP HAS BEEN MODERATED BY GOS PRIVATE STATEMENTS TO GPS
OFFICIALS, EXPLAINING REALITIES OF SWEDISH POLITICAL
SITUATION, INCLUDING KEY FACT THAT PARLIAMENT IS
DIVIDED INTO TWO EQUAL BLOCS OF 175 EACH BETWEEN SOCIALISTS
AND NON-SOCIALISTS.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

CONFIDENTIAL

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